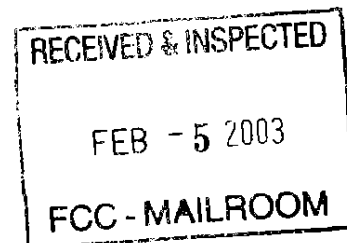




February 3, 2003

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Notice of Inquiry-WT Docket No. 02-381

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We received a copy of the FCC's Notice of Inquiry with respect to issues relating to the provision of terrestrial wireless services to rural areas. On behalf of the MetroJackson Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to let you know of the necessity of reliable wireless telecommunications services throughout the rural areas served by the members of our Chamber here in the Metro Jackson/ Central Mississippi area.

The MetroJackson Chamber represents 1600 firms in a metro area with a population in excess of 440, 000 people. Our primary goal is to attract even greater economic development to our area and see to it that our region has the necessary infrastructure to support a vibrant and growing business climate.

In recent years, all of our members have come to greatly appreciate the critical role wireless services play in the delivery of business communications throughout our community, but especially in the rural portions of Central Mississippi and Metro Jackson. In fact, our primary concern is how we can achieve even better wireless connections throughout all of our rural areas and to all of the rural customers we serve. In light of the events of September 11, 2001, the need for effective wireless communications to respond to emergency situations is increasingly important to us.

I specifically want to comment on the essential nature of continued adequate support from the Universal Service Support Fund (USF) to eligible wireless service providers. Support of wireless services from the USF will promote improvements to wireless infrastructure and better availability of wireless service in our rural areas. The wireless carriers that now serve or may potentially serve our community are **just** now getting the opportunity to realize benefits from the USF for their service improvements. On behalf of the MetroJackson Chamber of Commerce, I strongly urge the FCC to make sure that substantial support from the USF remains available to our wireless carriers to help them fulfill the goal of providing service throughout our rural areas in the Metro Jackson /Central Mississippi area.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. I may be contacted as indicated below.

Sincerely,

Duane O'Neill  
President